

1/1

ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCORPORATING THE REPORT OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1963



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29938545>

URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1963

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL :

Councillor W. C. Love, J.P. (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. A. Taberner (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D. Bennett, J.P., R. Cheetham, W. Darbyshire,
A. Evans, G. H. Nickeas, T. Parkinson, S. Preston, J. A.
Simpkin, J.P., R. Winstanley, W. Worthington.

HEALTH COMMITTEE :

Councillor W. Darbyshire (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. A. Taberner (Vice-Chairman)

All Members of the Council

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health : G. H. Potter, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector : W. Coupe, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.
Certified Inspector of Meat and Food.

Tel. : Wigan 82603i4.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ORRELL.

April, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of Orrell Urban District Council.

Mrs. Taberner and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Orrell for the year 1963. It has been compiled as in previous years, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I would like to take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the officials of the Council, and especially to your Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. Coupe, for valuable help and co-operation received throughout the year.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Mrs. Taberner and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,617
Population, Census, 1961 (prov.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,663
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (Mid-1963)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,330
Number of Inhabited Houses :							
(a) Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,528
(b) End of 1963 according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,865
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£437,034
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,690

The residential character of the district is well defined with the exception of the Heinz factory which is the foremost employer of labour. It is a fine example of enlightened industrialism with strong emphasis on amenable conditions of employment and authentic treatment of the industrial scene. It is to be hoped that this pattern will be followed in future developments to enable us in the North to lose the grim picture of our working conditions which made our lives drab in the past.

VITAL STATISTICS.

					<i>Total</i>		<i>M.</i>		<i>F.</i>
Live Births	}	Legitimate	...	...	196	...	103	...	93
		Illegitimate	...	...	5	...	2	...	3
Total					201	...	105	...	96
Still Births		...	...	...	4	...	3	...	1
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	}	Legitimate.			4	...	4	...	—
		Illegitimate			1	...	1	...	—
Total					5	...	5	...	—
Total No. of Deaths		...	...	...	132	...	72	...	60

Adjusted Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.	16·8
Birth rate for England and Wales	18·2
Adjusted Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	14·4
Death rate for England and Wales	12·2
Still birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	20·0
Still birth rate for England and Wales	17·3

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics for the years 1959-63.

		Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality				
		No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births	
ORRELL U.D.C.														
Year 1963	...	201	16.8	135	14.4	4	20.0	Nil	Nil	5	25.5	4	20.4	
Year 1962	...	180	15.3	126	14.5	1	5.5	Nil	Nil	3	5.6	1	5.6	
Year 1961	...	198	16.9	130	11.7	5	24.6	Nil	Nil	5	15.2	1	5.1	
Year 1960	...	151	15.4	111	10.5	5	42.0	Nil	Nil	1	6.6	—	—	
Year 1959	...	149	14.3	108	10.4	4	32.5	Nil	Nil	5	35.0	1	6.7	
Ave. 5 years 1959-63		175.9	15.704	32.16	14.2	3.8	24.2	Nil	Nil	4.1	17.6	1.2	7.5	

The following table shows the chief causes of death and the number of deaths during 1963 compared with the figures of 1962 :

						1963	1962
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	22	24
Leukæmia and Aleukæmia	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	25	16
Coronary disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	23	20
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	16	24
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	7	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	9	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortions	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Ill Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10	12
Accident, Suicide and other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Motor Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
						—	—
				Totals	...	132	126
						—	—

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Arrangements: Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Department of the Wigan Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratories, Monsall Hospital, Manchester. When the necessity arises the services of the County Analyst are utilised for Chemical Analysis.

The Disinfestation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, together with the Curator of the National History Museum at Bolton County Borough, provide expert services for the identification of insects and other pests.

Assessments of special food problems are carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Colindale and frozen food matters are referred to Low Temperature Research Stations either at Cambridge or Chipping Campden. Other processed foodstuffs and packing problems are referred to the appropriate trade research bureaux.

Liaison exists between the various authorities concerned with Radiation. The U.K.A.E.A. with the Headquarters of the Safety and Health Physics Section at Risley are available for advice on general matters.

Ambulance Services: Infectious, non-infectious, accident and maternity cases are dealt with by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council stationed at the Ambulance Station at Billinge.

The arrangements are adequate and satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948: No action was taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Water Supply: The most significant benefit from the institution of the Makerfield Water Board has been the improved pressures now obtained in the previously poorly supplied areas. This has been made possible by the re-routing of the " Lakes " water to the area as a whole and re-organisation of the internal mains connections.

The increased pressures have in turn exposed latent defects in many distribution pipes and fittings and a crop of bursts and repairs has followed the improvement in water pressures. The benefits have mainly been felt in the Far Moor area.

In addition, many residents have had to become accustomed to the taste of the " soft " water but this is now readily accepted.

A secondary benefit will surely be the removal of the bogies of furring up of boilers and the attack of galvanised tanks by corrosion which were so common in the past.

Five samples were taken during the year and all were satisfactory, despite the number of disturbances during the main connections.

Two chemical samples gave satisfactory results and no indication of harmful characteristics were reported.

A common source of complaint was the delay in achieving complete removal of live water services from condemned property. Much water must be lost by such hidden leaks and a policy must be evolved to grub out all live connections immediately after the tenants depart. A complication here is the problem to be faced when a solitary tenant is left for several years in a row of condemned houses and the whole of the system has to be left alive, leaving a multitude of vulnerable points whilst the remaining houses stand awaiting demolition.

The necessity to protect all exposed plumbing services from damage by frost is still the most pressing need in the field of water supply and the lessons learned in the recent hard winters are not being observed by occupiers of premises.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

W. COUPE, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.

1.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sewerage and Drainage : The hardy annuals of conversion of septic tank districts and control of the “overflow” at the River Douglas from our inadequate connection to the trunk main are pointers to the difficulties associated with sewerage and house drainage. These indicate the manner in which our growth has outstripped our services and the need for co-ordination of effort in every Department of an authority. Attempts should be made to assess trends in development so that adequate main services are made available and nuisances need not exist from generation to generation.

An undue number of main and sewer breakdowns were tackled by the Surveyor's staff with excellent results and several longstanding blackspots have been eradicated, not without some monumental work and application by all concerned. If it were not for the fact that the Council is still awaiting its Consultant's Report on the Sewerage of the Area it could well be asked when will the known defects at Orrell Post junction be tackled? As any relaying of sewers will necessitate work in this Area we will still have to live with this perpetual problem for the moment.

Sanitary Accommodation :

No. of Privy Middens in the District	...	...	3
„ Closets attached to Privy Middens	...	4	
„ Pail Closets	...	...	Nil
„ Freshwater Closets	...	...	3,899
„ Waste Water Closets	...	...	Nil
„ Dry Ashpits	...	...	2
„ Moveable Ashbins	...	...	3,869
„ Houses on Water Carriage System	...	3,828	

Sanitary Inspections :

No. of Premises Visited	...	...	...	1,107
„ Visits	...	...	...	2,621
Nuisances	...	...	...	270
Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	221
No. of Notices : (a) Informal	...	...	...	291
(b) Statutory	...	...	...	77
Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	Nil

The following inspections were carried out during the year under the provisions of the Public Health and Housings Acts :

Housing (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	680
Sanitary Conveniences	 58
Drainage	 221
Accumulations	 58
Keeping of Animals	 12
Inns	 10
Enquiries after Infectious Disease	 33
Refuse Collection	 281
Refuse Disposal	 221
Dirty and/or Verminous Premises	 16
Tents, Vans, Sheds	 12
Miscellaneous Visits	 158
Schools	 31

Schools : Most of the playgrounds are adequately paved.

The school staff and employees in the school meals service are taking an increasing interest in hygiene. The Divisional Executive have complied with all suggestions on points where improvements could be made and no case of infection or complaint arose from this source.

All schools have adequate washing facilities.

Tents, etc. : No formal camping is permitted within the district. Occasional transient workers station their vans with temporary permission.

Swimming Baths, etc. : There are no facilities for swimming within the district, an omission which for educational and recreational purposes should be seriously studied by all who are interested in the welfare and activities of the youth of the District.

Atmospheric Pollution : Observations are kept on all industrial installations.

Domestic smoke is the main source of pollution.

The implementation of the " Clean Air Act, 1956 " will have little effect within our district as our problem is wind borne from the industrial areas on our flanks, but a start should be made with our own domestic problem.

Common Lodging Houses : There are no common lodging houses within the district.

Factories : These are subject to inspection as occasion demands and the necessary representations made to owners or occupiers. Most establishments have completely satisfactory toilets, etc.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for puposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number of</i>			
	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories under Local Authorities ...	15	38	3	—
(ii) Factories not in (1) under Local Authority ...	18	28	2	—
(iii) Other Premises ...	6	12	1	—
Total ...	39	78	6	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Number of cases in which defects were found.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Referred</i>				
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.I.) ...	1	1			
Inadequate Ventilation ...	1	1			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1			
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—			
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	1			
Total ...	5	5			

Rodent Control : The control of rodents is a vital matter concerning our health and comfort. The rats and mice are parasitic on our social lives and are controlled by denying access to food and shelter in our midst.

Our permanent rat population is based on these sites of preference :

- (1) In sewers and around sewage plants.
- (2) In rural surrounding farms, agricultural premises and river banks.
- (3) In and around our homes, shops, factories, etc.

In controlling No. 1, we bait sewers twice yearly, check all drainage work for defects and open ends left during work of construction. With many sites in progress and much re-construction in hand there are positive risks of escape from sewers via these defects and controlled openings.

Sites are regularly visited and baited but even so, new houses have been found to be infested upon occupation and have required disinfestation.

The withdrawal of the Minister's scheme for contract treatment has thrown a heavy burden on Local Authorities' staffs who now have not the regularly treated areas to rely on, done to professional standards, but now have to supervise dilatory and reluctant farmers and stock keepers, including many part-timers who keep pigs and poultry in unsuitable premises and are not interested in vermin control. The result has been an increase in work, both operative and supervisory.

The presence of rats in and about our homes, shops and factories depends primarily on their presence in either of the two first named sites. It is very often the report of rodents from residents that leads us to the reservoir from which they are spilling out into the open. A great deal of routine hygiene work is tied up with our rodent control as the removal of refuse, cleaning of food wastes from factories and shops, and the repair and maintenance of buildings are all factors in the primary control of rodents.

		<i>Type of Property</i>			
		<i>Non-Agricultural.</i>		<i>Agricultural.</i>	
		<i>Dwelling houses.</i>	<i>All other</i>		
(a)	No. of properties in district .	3,880	470	...	16
(b)	No. of properties inspected .	191	104	...	14
(c)	Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections) ...	443	229	...	—
(d)	No. of properties inspected which were found to be in- fested by :				
	Rats : Major	—	—	...	1
	Minor	92	80	...	5
	Mice : Major	19	16	...	4
(e)	No. of infested properties treated	111	38	...	3
(f)	Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments) ...	122	50	...	3
(g)	No. of “ Block ” control schemes carried out ...	—	1	...	—
(h)	Any other action : Heavy surface infestations more common this year than previously.				

HOUSING

(a) *Local Authority* : The search for housing sites invariably leads back to the areas of our town which cry out for the full scale re-development. Not only are the farms and buildings in some congested areas derelict and worn, but they are badly arranged, inconvenient in use, and difficult to manage, with poor road access. Such areas pose problems intimately tied up with modern living and road conditions, the necessity for facilities for transport and refuse collection, and impede the local authorities' efforts to provide amenities and fuller services for the community at large. It is no proper function for a Council to denude areas of its ill-housed population and leave derelict patches of shops and other buildings standing. The answer must be in the fuller use of our powers in re-development areas.

(b) *The Rent Act, 1957* : The Rent Act has served its ostensible purpose of putting house ownership on an economic footing but the conditions are little, if any, improved.

(c) *Grant Aid Schemes*: The Council's decision not to operate the Improvement sections of the Government Grant Aided Scheme must be mentioned. The aim to improve houses must of course benefit some people at the expense of others, but in the long run, everyone benefits if a house is improved or a new house provided. We must lance this boil of ill and insufficient housing and whilst everyone deprecates paying high interest rates for new housing and the fact that some people might obtain improvement grants who could afford their own, the repair and maintenance of any house, however insignificant, relieves the whole situation and it will be a longer and slower recovery if we do not squeeze the malignant core with all speed.

The plight of the tenant whose landlord fails to take advantage of standard grant schemes is one which may soon be remedied if the long awaited powers of enforcement are given.

In this connection, it might well be remembered that the building industry is subject to far too casual treatment.

For years it is ignored and neglected whilst operatives walk the streets, builders close down, brick works shut down and the trade stagnates. Then in a flash, the policies change and the demand is for full speed to try to make up for the dead years. Bottlenecks are created and false prices prevail. Today with the demand for centrally heated bungalows, there is a six months delivery wait for copper pipe for bathroom improvements and property repairers are impossible to obtain.

3.—HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS.

		<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>Persons Displaced</i>
(1)	Houses demolished or closed during the year :		
(a)	Housing Act, 1957 :		
(i)	Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 17(1))	11	51
(ii)	Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Sections 16, 17 and 35, and still in force ...	4	17
(iii)	Parts of building closed (Section 18)	Nil	Nil
(b)	Housing Act, 1949 :		
(i)	Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	Nil	Nil
(c)	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :		
(i)	Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	Nil	Nil
			<i>No. of Houses</i>
(2)	Repairs during the year :		
(a)	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ...		85
(b)	Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied :		
(i)	By owners		—
(ii)	By local authority in default of owners...		Nil

(c)	Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Section 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit :	
(i)	By owners	69
(ii)	By local authority in default of owners...	—
(d)	Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954 : Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ...	—

4.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENT ACT, 1954)
Nil.

5.—HOUSING ACT, 1949 : IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.

No action was taken in the district to implement the improvement of private or publicly owned houses with public funds.

6.—RENT ACT, 1957.

Analysis of action taken by Local Authority under Repair procedure.

Part I : Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

(1)	Number of applications for certificates	1
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue certificates ...	—
(3)	Number of decisions to issue certificates	—
(a)	in respect of some but not all defects ...	—
(b)	in respect to all defects	1
(4)	Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	1
(5)	Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ...	—
(6)	Number of Certificates issued	—

Part II : Applications for Cancellation of Certificates :

(7)	Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates	—
(8)	Objection by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	—
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection	—
(10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority ...	—

7.—ERECTION OF NEW HOMES.

(a)	By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	41
(b)	By other Authorities	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c)	By other bodies and persons	...	...	...	...	61

8.—HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959
STANDARD GRANTS

Action during the year :		<i>No. of dwelling or other buildings affected</i>
	<i>No. of schemes</i>	
(a)	Submitted to local authority ...	36
(b)	Approved by local authority ...	24
(c)	Work completed ...	17

9.—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) *Conversions* : With the last remaining houses served by middens awaiting vacation, the district will shortly become completely served by water carried systems. When the final scheme for re-sewering the district is prepared and approved, septic tanks, cesspools and the age old midden will be obliterated and generations of makeshift devices supplemented for the convenience and cleanliness of the district and its streams, lakes and rivers.

(b) *Refuse Collections* : A pilot scheme for the use of paper sacks is being installed in the first group (41) of bungalows which are being fitted with gas-fired central heating. By this means, we are taking two steps forward in our hygienic drive. Each dwelling receives a clean sack each week and the whole of the refuse is removed without nuisance and no putrid smoke befouls the air—two real steps forward to a healthier and pleasant environment.

The two vehicles give varying kinds of trouble, the Shelvoke and Drury being mainly mechanical engine and transmission, whilst the Gibson has not settled down to be the vehicle we desired. The lift dependant on twin synchronised wire ropes has not proved satisfactory, but since the frame has been sent for truing up at a local works, its performance has been better.

The principle of dustless loading was a fine aim, but one thing is certain such progress cannot be made on shoestring budgets.

The replacement of 200 $3\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet bins per year has so far proved satisfactory and a high standard of condition has been achieved by the use of this scheme of Council replacement. There is a snag now arising from this heavy demand made from the new private housing estates where the shoddy bins provided are now failing years before our B.S.S. and more robust "Universal" bins remain useable after fifteen or so years wear and tear.

(c) *Tipping and Tractor* : As the tip fills and we consider fresh sites, it becomes obvious that due to the changes in content of the collection, the question of siting will become of paramount importance. It might be politic to consider amalgamation with adjoining districts with the futility of two small councils having separate tips within a stones throw of each other and both finding difficulty in controlling the rubbish so deposited.

The final covering and grading of the tip will present a major problem and if one considers that a £100 per year is expended on fencing tip covering and road maintenance, the job is well done at the price.

The necessity for a crawler type tractor with ample supplies of soil will become apparent as time for the task approaches.

(d) *Salvage*: The bonus scheme has resulted in improved output of waste paper, but the temptations to dump everything into the wagon is hard, especially with vehicles not designed to afford separate salvage space. Again one is faced with the simple facts that where a man pays full tax, his incentive goes, and the bin lift is delayed if he has to travel to the front of the wagon with salvage from every house.

(e) *Staff*: Temporary labour was retained for prolonged periods following illnesses and breakdowns on both tractors and refuse vehicles. The men now have the benefit of a canteen and washing facilities.

(f) *Summary of Refuse Collection* :

		1962		1963
No. of Ashpits and Privies emptied	...	122	...	69
No. of bins emptied		161,893	...	171,820
No. of Loads of Refuse removed	...	1,161	...	1,287

(g) *Disinfestation*: The perennial scourge of the fly and cockroach on our houses and food premises is the main source of risks which we face from insects.

The newer chemicals have proved adequate to control such pests and it is only an attitude of mind which permits infestations to persist and threaten our health and comfort. A drive to eradicate these pests from our food premises is being pursued.

The need to educate the public in the hygiene of refuse control and prevention in general is still very real.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Whilst the importance of clean food cannot be over-emphasised, it must be apparent that without the provision of clean premises and environment equipment and staff, not only for production, but for maintenance of cleanly conditions, no food factory is liable to continue to function properly, and eventually conditions will arise which are inimical to health.

With production pressures at a peak, the first thing to be neglected is cleanliness and floors, tables, shelves, etc., slip from being cleaned daily, or as often as used, until the whole business of cleaning becomes a long delayed task at the end of the week.

Numerous production units come into this pattern, ranging from the corner fish and chip shop, to the biggest of food factories. The methods adopted in organisations of the Heinz calibre are scrupulously efficient in removing all traces of contamination by a scientifically controlled plan designed to prevent build up of dirt, refuse and concentrations of harmful organisms which would be fatal in a cannery. At the other end of the scale we have the housewife shopkeeper struggling to run a little business in derelict surroundings, lacking training and equipment and yet dabbling in food which is most susceptible to contamination and risks of food poisoning.

The cleaning routines in most small establishments and some bigger ones fall far below the standards found in our model factories and prolonged work is required to impress upon food handlers the importance of less actual handling of food and to stress the need for separate wash bowls for personal use, quite apart from the one used in or for the shop equipment. Several instances occurred where the food to be sold was literally handled, and stored in the kitchen or scullery, with domestic washing and cleaning, and family life complete with cats and dogs, and all jammed into the business of storing, preparing and selling food. Just where to call a halt ; in these cases which originally started off as little corner " dry goods " shops and have now blossomed out as little multiples with all kinds of cooked and prepared food sold openly in dangerous conditions ; poses a problem.

Secondary, but important factors also creep in with lack of cold storage facilities, poor refuse bin provision and accumulations of equipment, bread trays and junk littering the yard and making the protection against rodents, difficult.

Several traders are now going over to the paper sack and holder method of refuse storage, with a cleanliness potential.

The progress from the trials of the past with its history of epidemics to a safer and cleaner handling of food is fraught with grave risks of slipping back as more and more cooked, frozen or pre-packed food comes into use. The demand of modern living leave little time for home cooking and until our processing trades and shops reach better standards, the risks of food poisoning grow no less.

Food Traders : Persons trading in food from vehicles, stall, etc., pose their own problems mainly connected with the cleanliness of equipment and exposure of food to contamination. Constant watch is kept on the method used by such traders.

Canteens, kitchens, restaurants and licensed houses also give rise to many risks. Mainly the defects concern the exposure of cooked meats, pies, confectionery and cream to contamination and here in particular, the exhortation to " NOW WASH YOUR HANDS " needs special emphasis.

Again the risks associated with inaccurate temperature control arise and few traders realise that a safe temperature should be held for the particular product concerned. The golden rule of piping hot or stone cold applies and no cooking of meats, gravies and preparation of creams, etc., until required for use. The overnight preparation of meat joints is one of the most obvious yet commonly met hazards in kitchen hygiene.

Refuse storage and collection are checked at all food establishments and associations with pests traced and remedied.

Warnings were issued to three food processors, one regarding maggots in a chicken barbecue shop, one regarding fly infestations and foreign matter in a bakehouse and a serious case of neglect in the storage of carcase meat. The cumulative effect was to achieve a great improvement in basic hygiene in many cases from the resultant publicity obtained.

Licensed Premises : These often give rise to concern and when adequate and well-maintained premises are obtained, the question of contamination of drink arises with the persistence of bad habit of re-utilising slops from trays and glasses. Until the Customs and Excise Authorities meet us on this point, it is asking a lot for the trade to pour its tax-paid beer down the drain, as we sanitarians are wont to ask them.

Sampling : Routine sampling takes place of food and drink if suspected of causing infection, milk and ice cream are the usual items sent for testing.

Below, as appended, details of the samples obtained in the Urban District of Orrell under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, during 1963 by the Lancashire County Council :

A total of 46 samples was obtained, consisting of 29 samples of milk (5 of which were Channel Island Milk) and 17 others, comprising :—

2 Pork sausages	1 Beef sausage
1 Meat paste	2 Dried fruit
1 Mincemeat	3 Jam
1 Marmalade	1 White pepper
1 Ground ginger	1 Ground nutmeg
2 Coffee and chicory essence	1 Coffee extract

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine.

Milk and Dairies : We feel that clean milk in every aspect of producing and distribution should still be some concern of the man on the spot. Local Authorities are not altogether happy that the remote control method has ever really effectively superseded the local supervision exercised by Local Authority staff.

	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
Raw Milk :			
(1) Tuberculosis : biological.	2	...	2
(2) Methylene Blue ...	2	...	2
(3) Brucella Ring Test ...	15	...	4

Ring tests were carried out throughout three herds affected and a large number of reactors disclosed. The herds were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Inspector.

Food Premises : Number of food premises, by type of business, in district at the end of the year :

Type of Business	No.
General Grocers and Provision Dealers ...	36
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (licensed, those selling wet fish, game, etc.) ...	9
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.) ...	1
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.) ...	10
Bakers and/or Confectioners ...	6
Fried Fish Shops ...	5
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc. ...	14
Licensed Premises, Clubs, Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars and similar establishments	25
Others ...	14

Number of food premises, by type, registered under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act or under local acts :

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>No. Registered 31.12.62</i>	<i>No. of inspections made during the year</i>
Ice-cream—Sale and/or Storage ...	26	50
Preserved Food Premises ...	7	51
Lancs. C.C. (G.P. Act) 1938-57 :		
Licensed Hawkers ...	10	18

Inspections : The following number of inspections of food premises other than those referred to above were made during the year :

Bakehouses ...	57
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens ...	38
Grocers' Shops ...	40
Greengrocers ...	28
Butchers' Shops ...	55
Fish Fryers' Premises and preserved foods ...	51
Miscellaneous ...	6
Confectioners ...	31
Dairies ...	10
Notices served ...	17

Meat : There are no licensed slaughter houses within the District. Butchers purchase supplies from Wigan or Stanley Abattoirs.

Regular inspection of all butchers' shops and of the meat found in the shops has been maintained throughout the year. Attention is paid to the condition of delivery vehicles which in some cases call for improvement. There has been an improvement in meat temperature conditions. Temperature checks are now made on cooked foodstuffs held for sale, including frozen as well as cooked foods.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-54 : No animals were slaughtered within the district during the year.

10.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were five cases of Scarlet Fever during the year.

Diphtheria : No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year maintaining the clear record of the District over the past fifteen years.

The following statistics relate to the year 1963, and show the number of children resident in Orrell who were immunised and vaccinated.

<i>Type</i>	<i>Pre-School Children</i>	<i>School Children</i>	<i>Adults</i>
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus) :			
Primary	169	1	—
Re-inforcement	—	4	—
Combined Antigen (Diphtheria and Tetanus) :			
Primary	12	11	—
Re-inforcement	—	225	—
Smallpox Vaccination :			
Primary	29	3	5
Re-vaccination	—	—	4
Poliomyelitis :			
Primary	180	2	23
Re-inforcement	3	134	6

Pneumonia : There were no cases of acute primary pneumonia.

Measles : 93 cases of this disease were notified.

Poliomyelitis : There were no cases of poliomyelitis during the year.

Cancer : There were 10 deaths attributable to Cancer.

Facilities for Radium Treatment for Orrell residents is available at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester centre.

Tuberculosis : Three new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. No deaths arose from the disease. Treatment is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, and Orrell attend the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

Food Poisoning : No cases were reported during the year.

Paratyphoid and Dysentrey : Six local contacts in cases of paratyphoid and dysentery outside the district were investigated and specimens taken with no positive results. No secondary cases arise within the district from either disease.

Ten separate specimens were submitted in these incidents for bacteriological report.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1963.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	Age Periods Years										Total deaths	Outward hospital transfer	Inward death transfer
		—1	—2	—3	—4	—5	—10	—15	—25	—45	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever ...	(a) 11	—	—	1	2	4	2	2	—	—	—	(b)	(c)	d)
Measles ...	61	5	19	10	—	18	9	—	—	—	—			
Tuberculosis : Respiratory ...	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—			
Dysentery ...	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—			
Totals ...	78	5	19	12	3	22	11	3	1	2	—			

Total ... Nil.

